

In re Application of:  
Lee and Esquela  
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**B. In the Claims**

Please cancel claims 5, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 19 to 22, 30 to 36, and 38 to 43 without prejudice, and amend claims 3, 23, and 37 as indicated below. Upon entry of the amendment, the status of the claims will be as follows:

1. (Original) Substantially pure growth differentiation factor-12 (GDF-12) and functional fragments thereof.
2. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide sequence encoding the GDF-12 polypeptide of claim 1.
3. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein the GDF-12 is selected from the group consisting of:
  - a) [[a.]] SEQ ID NO:13, wherein T can also be U;
  - b) [[b.]] nucleic acid sequences complementary to SEQ ID NO:13; and
  - c) [[c.]] fragments of [[a. or b]] a) or b) that are at least 15 bases in length and that will selectively hybridize to DNA which encodes the GDF-12 protein of SEQ ID NO:14[[; and]].
4. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein the polynucleotide is isolated from a mammalian cell.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Original) An expression vector including the polynucleotide of claim 2.
7. (Cancelled)

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8. (Original) The vector of claim 5, wherein the vector is a virus.

9. (Original) A host cell stably transformed with the vector of claim 6.

10 to 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) Antibodies that bind to the polypeptide of claim 1 or fragments thereof.

13 to 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) A method of detecting a cell proliferative disorder comprising contacting antibody of claim 12 with a specimen of a subject suspected of having a GDF-12 associated disorder and detecting binding of the antibody.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the cell is a liver cell.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the detecting is *in vivo*.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the antibody is detectably labeled.

19 to 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) A method of treating a cell proliferative disorder associated with expression of [[GDF-12]] growth differentiation factor-12 (GDF-12), comprising contacting the cells with a reagent which suppresses [[the]] GDF-12 activity.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the reagent is an anti-GDF-12 antibody.

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25. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the reagent is a GDF-12 antisense sequence.

26. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the cell is a liver cell.

27. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the reagent which suppresses GDF-12 activity is introduced to a cell using a vector.

28. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the vector is a colloidal dispersion system.

29. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the colloidal dispersion system is a liposome.

30 to 36 (Cancelled)

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[35]] 27, wherein the vector is a virus.

38 to 43. (Cancelled)